

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAL-01 /147 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3479

INFO USUN 1248

UNCLAS MEXICO 3080

USUN FOR LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: 200 MILES AND U.S.- MEXICAN FISHERIES

REF: STATE 045487

1. FISHATT MET ON MARCH 5 WITH UNDERSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES
HECTOR MEDINA NERI AT THE LATTER'S SUGGESTION TO DISCUSS
U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT MEXICO'S 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC
ZONE. MEDINA NERI SAID THAT WE WERE UNDULY CONCERNED ABOUT
THE FIFTY PERCENT CREW REQUIREMENT AND THE RESERVATION OF
SHRIMP TO COOPERATIVES SINCE, ACCORDING TO HIS INTERPRETA-
TION OF THE LAW, THIS ONLY APPLIED TO MEXICAN TERRITORIAL
WATERS, I.E. 12 MILES. HE ALSO SAID THAT MEXICO WAS FIRMLY
COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF FULL UTILIZATION AND THAT ANY
QUOTE SURPLUS END QUOTE OF A PARTICULAR SPECIES WOULD BE
ALLOWED TO BE HARVESTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. HE THEN ADDED
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THAT IN THE CASE OF SHRIMP HE DOUBTED THAT ANY SURPLUS

EXISTED. FISHATT POINTED OUT THAT MEXICAN SHRIMP INDUSTRY WAS BASED ON U.S. MARKET AND THAT DENIAL OF ACCESS TO MEXICAN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE COULD HAVE REPRECUSIONS IN THE U.S. THAT MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT MEXICAN ACCESS TO THAT MARKET. MEDINA SAID THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THIS, BUT THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT AN AMICABLE SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND. HE SAID THAT WHAT MEXICO REALLY NEEDED IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT SOME DECISION WERE GOOD STATISTICS ON U.S. SHRIMP FISHING OFF MEXICO BEYOND 12 MILES. HE WAS TOLD THAT USG WAS IN THE PROCESS OF GATHERING THESE STATISTICS AND THAT WHEN AVAILABLE THEY COULD PROBABLY BE GIVEN TO GOM. WE BELIEVE THAT THE REQUEST FOR THESE FIGURES IS THE MOST LIKELY REASON WHY MEDINA NERI SUGGESTED THE MEETING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

2. FISHATT ALSO ASKED WHAT WERE MEXICO'S INTENTIONS CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF 85 SHRIMP BOATS PROVIDED FOR IN THE IADB LOAN, A SUBJECT WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO SEVERAL U.S. BOAT BUILDERS. MEDINA NERI REPLIED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, THAT THE CREDIT DID NOT HAVE TO BE USED UNTIL 1978, AND THAT HE SUSPECTED THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE DECEMBER 1, 1976.

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